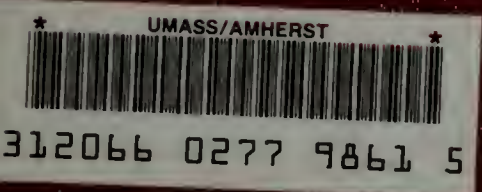


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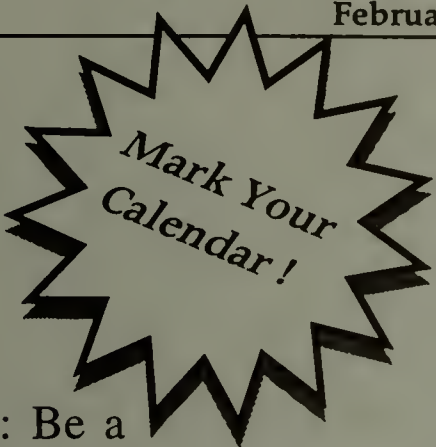
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MEMA NEWS

The Quarterly Newsletter of the
Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency

Volume IV February 1996 Number 1

All Hazards Conference



Mark your calendar: Be a part of the first annual Northeast Regional All Hazards Conference to be held June 26-28, 1995, at the World Trade Center, Boston.

The theme of this conference, the first of its kind in Boston, is "ALL HAZARDS," which will address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery issues for emergency planners, responders, business and industry.

Objectives of the conference will include: increasing communications between diverse elements of the emergency management community and establishing a long-range, multi-hazard public awareness outreach for public, private and volunteer officials and responders. The All Hazards Conference will also address strengthening the cooperative efforts of Federal, State and local partnerships through sharing information on emergency support functions, and identifying the changes in current programs and program reforms based upon the outcomes of the First Biennial National Mitigation Conference.

So, please join us and look for more information in future publications and brochures.



Photo courtesy of Larry Weisberg

Mayor Thomas Menino meets with MEMA Agency Director Rodham and Area I Director Kevin Tully during a recent visit.

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Hurricane Awareness Workshop

They came from every township on the Cape. They came from the Islands. They packed the auditorium and the balcony at Cape Cod Community College to learn about "The Greatest Storms on Earth." It was the Hurricane Awareness Workshop, presented by the Area II field office of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency. Thomas P. Rodger, Area II Director, welcomed approximately 600 attendees to the Monday evening workshop offered by Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for the purpose of informing residents on how to prepare for and survive a hurricane.

The agenda included Robert Thompson, David Vallee and Glenn Field of the National Weather Service, along with Frank Knippenberg, District Manager of Commonwealth Electric Company, and Mike Tarnowski, Program Manager of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers. In addition, Cameron Macintosh of the Massachusetts Insurance Division was on hand to field homeowners' questions about property damage.

In preparation for a hurricane, Thompson advised, "Think of your basic needs. Check your flashlights, battery-powered radios, nonperishable food and water supplies. Fill your car's gas tank. Make sure your first aid supplies and medi-

cations are stocked. Bring in lawn furniture, garden tools, trash cans and any other lightweight objects which would become airborne in a storm. And listen for weather reports and advisement on your radio or television, as well as from your local public safety officials."

Frank Knippenberg advised that "Generators should be professionally installed and inspected prior to use, to insure that there is no backfeed to power lines. They should be located outside of the home due to the fumes they produce."

Attendees were able to look at evacuation studies provided by the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers concerning their location. All participants were provided with a profusion of hurricane literature to take with them for future refer-



Tom Rodger with David Vallee, Bob Thompson and Glenn Field.

Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

ence.

The Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency provides information and instruction to all classifications of local emergency management, as well as offering solid guidelines to the general public. We assist the citizens of the Commonwealth to prepare for a disaster such as a hurricane, and also coordinate the resources necessary to recover from such an event. Thus, ours is an ongoing task, as long as disasters take place.

Pilgrim Exercise Report

[David Rodham]

We just receive the preliminary report on the Pilgrim Exercise, and I congratulate everyone for a job well done. As you know, the Methuen fire occurred on the same day and we had to make some staffing reassignments. Even FEMA was impressed.

I'd like to share a few quotes from the text of the FEMA report:

- Overall direction and control by the Acting MEMA Director (Bud Iannazzo) was excellent. The entire EOC staff demonstrated their ability to adapt to any situation by handling a real-life emergency [Methuen Fire] and the exercise at the same time. Professionalism and dedication were shown by the Public Affairs and Rumor Control staffs.

- The Area II Director and staff operated in a timely, pertinent, and concise manner.

- The excellent demonstration of Direction and Control at the EOC was a result of coordi-

nated teamwork with MEMA, MDPH, and the Utility.

- Excellent coordination at the Media Center with the State, Utility and local PIOs. Emergency conditions were capably addressed and rumors resolved through media briefing and news releases.

- EBS Stations WBMX, WPLM, and WATD showed strong support to emergency management and public safety.

- Plymouth County Sheriff Emergency Management Agency did an outstanding job of logistically planning and executing the simulated evacuation of thousands of prisoners.

- Local EOCs: Excellent job by Emergency Management Directors and staff who demonstrated a good knowledge of plans and procedures and implemented same in a timely manner.



It has come to our attention that FEMA has published information regarding MEMA's Annual Public Safety Fair in its new book entitled Good Ideas. Other states are being urged to follow our good example and hold their own public safety fairs.

Congratulations to the entire MEMA family for making this event possible. It's great to know that FEMA recognizes and values our efforts!

The Hurricane of '38

[Doug Forbes, Jr.]

Bill Simpson, the Mattapoissett Emergency Management Director, was 14 years old when the 1938 Hurricane hit Massachusetts without warning. Around two or three o'clock in the afternoon, Bill and his dad drove their 1937 Ford sedan down to Mattapoissett Neck to rescue what they could from their cottage. By the time the Simpson's arrived at their cottage, it was too late to save any valuables. They watched helplessly in the rain, high wind, salt spray, and blowing sand as huge waves crashed into their cottage breaking it up into sections.

The damage complete, the waves sent the house sections across a marsh and up into the woods. Bill's cottage was the last to be destroyed at Mattapoissett Neck, never to be rebuilt.

Leaving the Neck, Bill and his dad surveyed the damage throughout the area. The sea was up to the town hall, roads were covered with water, and trees and homes were destroyed or badly damaged.

Bill will never forget the fury of that terrible storm. He still lives in Mattapoissett today, but in a much safer area. With his first hand experience gained during one of New England's worst hurricanes, you can be sure that he and his community will be well prepared this hurricane season.

Kevin Tully Receives Certificate of Appreciation



Area I Director, Kevin Tully (left), received a Certificate of Appreciation from the Metropolitan Boston Emergency Medical Services Council from Council Chairman Richard H. Aubut. MEMA Director David Rodham (right) was present to congratulate Kevin on his well deserved recognition.

Quincy Elders Evacuated

[Nell Porter Brown, *The Patriot Ledger*, January 11, 1996]

About 240 elderly people were forced out of their cold apartments at 1000 Southern Artery [January 10] because of a massive power failure, officials said.

Most of the south wing residents stayed overnight with friends and relatives. But about 40 people ate fast-food burgers for dinner and slept on fold-out cots in a lounge in the east wing, which was not affected.

Power was restored about 8:15 A.M. [January 11].

Residents took the impromptu slumber party in stride.

Betty Cameron found shelter with a friend in the east wing, and the two ended up reminiscing late into the night. First thing [the next morning], Cameron rushed back to her home to check on her cockatoo, named "Boy."

"I was afraid he would be frozen, poor thing," said Cameron, a petite brown-haired woman with glasses. Then she laughed. "He wouldn't give me his kiss this morning because I think he was mad I wasn't there."

Mina Stiglitz was among those who spent a somewhat fitful night on a canvas cot borrowed from the American Red Cross.

"It's better than sleeping on the floor," she said while eating breakfast—muffins and other goodies from Dunkin' Donuts. "It wasn't too bad."

Overall, the campout seemed to break up the monotony of the snowy week, said Tony Siciliano, director of the city's Emergency Management Agency.

Massachusetts Electric Co. worked on the cable that night. Residents were back in their homes by lunchtime.

The cable that supplies the south wing apparently burned out just before noon. Residents were evacuated in the late afternoon.

"Thank God it was warm in here," Siciliano said of the carpeted, powder blue east-wing lounge. "We didn't have to bring them to shelter or something."

Siciliano got the cots from Boston, and brought in other emergency supplies—like boxes of gray wool blankets, pillows and food.

McDonald's restaurant cooked up about 60 burgers, fries, chicken nuggets and Cokes for the elders that night. "They were hungry. They'd eat anything," Siciliano said.

Mayor James A. Sheets even appeared at breakfast to wish the residents well.

"It was like camping out," Sheets said. "If anything, it breaks up the long winter."



Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

Tom Rodger, Area II Director, with Dick Moore of the Federal Emergency Management Agency Washington Office, and John Smith, MEMA All Hazards Coordinator, at the NEDRIX Conference.

From the Director

Probably, the most significant development in MEMA and Public Safety since our last newsletter is the Governor's reorganization.

The Executive Office of Public Safety will have three departments, Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Corrections and Department of Emergency Management. In concert with my duties as Director of MEMA, Secretary O'Toole asked me to become Assistant Secretary of the Department of Emergency Management.

The first order of business will be to find a way to best use the resources of the three groups that make up the new department, namely, MEMA, Mass. National Guard, and the Fire Services. We have already had several joint meetings and progress is ongoing.

We just received the preliminary exercise report from FEMA for the Seabrook Power Plant Exercise. They were most complimentary to both state and local responders and especially noted the significant progress made by local government in their response organizations. This

is in addition to the positive report received from FEMA for our collective work on the Vermont Yankee Exercise.

The Department of Emergency Management is undertaking an exciting new emergency planning process designed to develop Standard Operating Procedures for each entity or group involved in disaster response. Included will be the Incident Command Center, Emergency Operating Center, individual response agencies, etc.

Each entity will have a written procedure and a computer disc with an action checklist to ensure that all the steps are covered. We are interested in any SOP's that could assist us in our task, especially those developed by local government.

Don't forget our Northeast Regional All Hazards Conference scheduled for June 26-28 at the World Trade Center in Boston. We expect 1000 to 1500 attendees from the New England States as well as New York and New Jersey. You will continue to receive information as the agenda is finalized—in any event, block these dates out on your calendar.

Passings

Harold Howe

[Judy Kazunas and Doug Forbes, Sr.]

We were shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden death of long time Civil Defense/MEMA employee Harold Howe. Harold was also the fiancé and thirteen year companion to the Planning Division's Secretary, Carol Feeley.

Harold passed away, totally unexpectedly, of a heart attack on November 15. He was only 54 years old.

Harold had worked for us for many years before transferring to the Massachusetts Highway Department. He was an expert radio technician and kept our communications equipment in top shape and ready for any emergency. He was just a "good guy" who was always there to help anyone with a communications question or problem. In fact, even after he went to work for the Highway Department, he stopped by to help us with radio repairs on his own time. Even those who did not work here back when Harold did, knew him because, very frequently he stopped by to drop Carol off or pick her up, and many of us chatted with him on those occasions.

We all mourn the loss of our friend, Harold, and extend our deep compassion to Carol, her family, and Harold's family.

Edward A. Lamphier

[William G. Sullivan, *The Patriot Ledger*]

Edward A. Lamphier, 68, of Marshfield, a former director of marketing and a former state and federal government official, died at Jordan Hospital, Plymouth, following a lengthy illness.

During 1964 and 1965, Mr. Lamphier was coordinator of intergovernmental relations for former Gov. Endicott Peabody. He wrote some of the governor's speeches and delivered several himself.

He was disaster assistance officer for Massachusetts and became a public assistance officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

Born in Boston, he grew up in Dorchester Lower Mills and attended St. Gregory's School and Boston English High School. He graduated from Boston College in 1951.

He lived 41 years in Marshfield where he was a charter member of the Democratic Town Committee. He had been active in politics since his student days at Boston College.

He coordinated disaster recovery activities for Mass. Civil Defense following several Presidential Disaster Declarations.

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Community News

SWANSEA (Area II)

Ted Watkinson, Swansea E. M. Director and Deputy Director Henry Mercer have just completed Volume 11 of their Orientation Manual for Volunteers. Each of these comprehensive manuals details the duties and safety precautions to be performed by volunteers in different types of disasters. Both Ted and Henry are to be commended for a job well done!

NEW BEDFORD (Area II)

Mark Mahoney, the New Bedford E.M. Director, completed his new Hurricane Emergency Plan just as Felix began his trip north. With the comments he received from city department heads, Mark feels that this timely plan was at the top of the city's summer reading list.

Mark has also produced several other high caliber emergency plans. In fact, one plan was even added to the Emergency Management Institute's Library in Emmittsburg, Maryland. Congratulations to Mark and his whole team!

COHASSET (Area II)

Nelson C. Pratt, Jr. of Cohasset was the recipient of a plaque from the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency for his many years of unfailing service to the Commonwealth, MEMA, and the Town of Cohasset. Mr. Pratt became a R.A.C.E.S. (Radio Amateur Civil Emergency Ser-

vice) operator in 1974. Arthur Lehr, Cohasset Emergency Management Director, expressed his gratitude for Nelson Pratt's dedicated performance over the years. "Nelson has always been there for us. He is invariably ready to participate in every drill and any training which becomes available. During the blizzard of '78, Nelson was our MVP. Whether it's a drill or an actual emergency, he's there, performing like the pro that he is."

The presentation was made by Mary Ivens, MEMA Area II Sector Director, at the Monday, July 24 meeting of the Cohasset Selectmen. Ms. Ivens congratulated Mr. Pratt for his competence and tenacity in the field of communications. "According to our records, Nelson Pratt has been on the air longer than Walter Winchell," Ms. Ivens quipped. "He is one of our behind-the-scenes players who keeps the information flowing smoothly during the storm."



Hard work and dedication can pay off! Mark Jodoin, the Fairhaven Emergency Management Director, just received a new cherry red 1 ton pickup truck with dual wheels, extended cab, diesel engine, light bar and a deluxe utility box from the Town to be used for emergency response.

Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

Blizzard Exhausts Some Towns' Funds

[Martha Gold, *Springfield Sunday Republican*, January 14, 1996]

Chester — Last year, this tiny hilltown community allocated \$30,000 for snow removal this winter.

It wasn't enough.

"Now it's all gone, and we're not even a month into winter," said Selectman John Baldasaro.

With no choice but to go into debt in order to keep the roads clear, Chester, like many other Western Massachusetts communities, declared a state of emergency in order to legally overspend its already depleted snow-removal budget.

According to John Pappas, the regional director for the Western Massachusetts division of the state Emergency Management Agency, Chester was one of at least 10 communities that declared such a state of emergency. Along with Chester, Pappas said, Wales, Springfield, Hampden, Blandford, Holland, Great Barrington, Southwick, Chicopee and Westfield all declared themselves in a state of emergency after [the January 8] major storm.

"It allows that municipality's government to expend funds from other accounts to meet that emergency's expenses," Pappas said. "This is so they don't incur liabilities."

Pappas said he took an informal survey of towns and cities that have declared emergencies and found that, together, they had spent more than one million dollars to clear their roads. Springfield, Chicopee, Great Barrington, Chester and Blandford were some of the cities and towns surveyed.

"Springfield alone spent \$350,000," Pappas said. "Worcester has spent over a million."

Chester declared itself in a state of emergency [January 10], about 24 hours after Blandford did. Both towns [were still] in emergency condition [as of January 14] because snowbanks have narrowed many of the dirt and secondary roads down to one lane.

"The situation hasn't been negated yet," said Blandford Selectman Wes Shepard.

In order to declare a state of emergency, the board of selectmen or mayor of a community must meet with the highway, police and fire departments and all of the representatives present must agree that an emergency exists. The community then must notify the state Emergency Management Agency. In Western Massachusetts, that means going to the agency's Division 4 headquarters in Belchertown, where Pappas works. Besides allowing municipalities to overspend their budgets to remove snow, declaring a state of emergency alerts the state to the municipality's plight and makes it eligible to receive state aid.

"Declaring a state of emergency will put our state legislators on notice," Baldasaro said.

Unlike Chester, Southwick was only under a state of emergency for 24 hours, according to Charles Dunlap, that town's emergency management director.

"Once we had all of the roads opened for emergency access, the Board of Selectmen terminated the state of emergency," Dunlap said.

New Underground Cell Site Will Allow Commonwealth Emergency Communications

[Cellular One Newsletter]

Cellular One recently installed a new underground cell site at the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) headquarters in Framingham. It now exists to coordinate the efforts of state and municipal agencies in the event of civil emergencies such as hurricanes, blizzards, or tornadoes. Whenever required, agency representatives gather at the subterranean office for strategic planning sessions.

Although the area's four MEMA offices are able to communicate via an 800 megahertz radio system, key officers also carry cellular phones and pagers. The difficulty, however, was that neither cellular phones nor beepers could operate underground. Therefore, if the landline system were to become disabled, communica-

tions with anyone outside MEMA would be impossible without going above ground.

Cellular One came to the rescue by installing an underground cell site in MEMA'S, Communications Office. This now allows cellular communication between MEMA officers and also with any outside organizations they may need to reach.

Today, MEMA keeps approximately a dozen cellular phones underground in Framingham to be distributed in the event of an emergency. This cellular equipment can be used anywhere, inside the building as well as in the field. According to Dave Rodham, MEMA Director, the addition of the cell site represents "a quantum leap forward for public safety."

Shelter Management

An overflow crowd attended the Area II Shelter Workshop for local emergency management directors. The Workshop was held at the Swansea Emergency Operating Center on November 14.

The keynote speaker, Ernie Bunker of the American Red Cross, was well received due to his first hand experience in managing shelters for over 30 years. Mr. Bunker shared several interesting stories which pointed out the do's and don'ts of shelter operations. A lively question and answer period followed.

Special thanks to Swansea Director Ted Watkinson, Swansea Deputy Director Henry Mercer and their staff for hosting the workshop.

"Operation Third Chance"

MEMA AREA II CONDUCTS COMMUNICATIONS EXERCISE

[Tom Rodger]

On October 2, 1995 the MEMA Area II office conducted its own area-wide communications exercise in which approximately 30 communities participated. Area Director Tom Rodger developed "Operation Third Chance" using a hurricane scenario with a total of four messages that were strategically inserted throughout the exercise.

MEMA Training Plans Exported to Russia

MEMA is honored to have its Training Module requested by FEMA to serve as a model for the Russian program. Seung Choi, NSEPP Director, has overseen the transit of MEMA's Nuclear Safety Emergency Preparedness Training Program's Training Module to Russian emergency managers. Our Training Module, along with other resources, will be used to improve the management of safety and response issues for Russia's nuclear plants.

Training has been a deficiency for Russian off-site responders. This is particularly unfortu-

Civil Air Patrol at Safety Fair

[Civil Air Patrol News, October 1995]

Massachusetts Wing showed off its aircraft, communications van, first aid skills and bivouac equipment at a recent Safety Fest. Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency sponsored the event at South Weymouth Naval Air Station.

Lt. Col. Al Slaney, wing headquarters, demonstrated the communications equipment for members of the public.

Thousands of people attended the event and saw demonstrations from a number of Massachusetts public safety agencies.

nate as Russia has more than 40 nuclear plants. Dan McElhinney of FEMA Region I noted that the Russians are "...particularly interested in tabletop exercises."

MEMA is most honored by this venture, and proudly commends all those involved with the project. MEMA has also assisted Japan in developing local comprehensive Emergency Management Plans. Most recently several representatives of the Czech Republic met with Doug Forbes and Judy Kazunas for help in developing emergency response plans. They were most impressed with Judy's "user friendly" Data Collection System and expect to use it in their home country.

SKYWARN Informational Session Held

On Thursday, October 26, 1995, Walpole Emergency Management hosted a SKYWARN Informational Meeting

SKYWARN is a program sponsored by the National Weather Service. This program employs volunteer weather observers for reporting destructive storms or other severe, unusual or abnormal weather conditions. When the potential for severe weather exists, usually when a severe weather watch is issued, volunteers are alerted through various means such as NOAA weather radio to be on the lookout for severe weather conditions in their communities. Amateur Radio Operators affiliated with a local radio organization are ideally equipped to contribute to the SKYWARN program.



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MEMMANS

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June 1996

Number 2

All Hazards Conference



The biggest All Hazard Conference is headed this way June 26-28, 1996. This conference sponsored by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the Massachusetts Emergency Management Association will be held at the World Trade Center in Boston. This first of its kind conference will be held in the scenic waterfront area. The conference will address mitigation, preparedness, response and recovery issues for emergency planners, responders and business and industry. Over forty workshops will be presented covering a wide variety of subjects. The objectives of the conference will be increasing communication between diverse elements of the emergency management community and establishing a long range, multi-hazard public awareness outreach for public, private and volunteer officials and responders. The All Hazard conference will also address strengthening the cooperative efforts of federal, state and local partnerships through sharing information on emergency support functions and identifying the changes in current programs.

When this conference gets underway, the Oklahoma City Bombing will be one year old. The impact that incident, along with the World Trade Center bombing, had on how well we're prepared to handle major catastrophes really struck home. The real test was on our ability to bring into focus all of the resources necessary to cope with the trauma of the moment. Hospitals,

medical transport, communications and public safety were immediately put to the test, as was the preparedness of the communities in which these disasters took place. These were only two incidents. What would happen if a flood, earthquake, hurricane, HAZMAT or other type of emergencies occurred?

These situations and others will be addressed at the June All Hazard Conference. You will hear and see what the local, state and federal Emergency Management forces have accomplished, and have the opportunity to learn from those who have first hand experience in all types of hazardous and emergency situations. You will also see demonstrations of state-of-the-art equipment and materials used in all types of emergencies.

If a disaster the magnitude of what occurred in Oklahoma City or Kobe, Japan, occurred now,

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From the Director

The past five years I have spent in emergency management have been a rewarding and enriching experience. I am very proud of the accomplishment of my MEMA staff, who were ably assisted by the MEMT Team. In my travels as President-Elect of the National Emergency Management Association (NEMA), one of the things that most intrigues my fellow state directors is the operational response and day-to-day interface with our MEMT team. Private relief organizations, business, industry, federal agencies and our state agencies are working toward optimizing disaster response without a hint of "turf" battles. Thank you all for this as I devote my major energies to the Office of Assistant Secretary of Public Safety in charge of overall emergency management.

You and I are fortunate to have a person like Peter LaPorte with an excellent background and obvious energy taking over as MEMA Director. As Assistant Secretary of Public Safety, I look forward to working with Peter, and, through him, with many of you, my MEMA friends. Through *MEMA News*, I'll keep in touch with the happenings in the bunker and in the field.

Again, to all of you, thank you for a spectacular five years... and to Peter, a warm welcome.

Passings

George T. Leach Jr.

[Doug Forbes, Jr.]

We were saddened to hear that George Leach, the Chairman of the Board of Selectmen for Westport, passed away on March 28, 1996. George was a long-time supporter of emergency management and always encouraged surrounding communities to maintain strong emergency management programs. Mike McCarthy, the Westport Emergency Management Director, said that Mr. Leach will be greatly missed by his department and by all public safety officials in the area.

Col Charles J. Tinkham Jr.

[*The Patriot Ledger*, February 21, 1996]

Col. Charles J. Tinkham, Jr., 95, of South Braintree, a career Army officer, died January 31, 1996.

Col. Tinkham was born in Cambridge and attended English High School in Boston, the Massachusetts Military Academy and Army service schools.

His military career started when he joined the National Guard at age 16. When officers found out how old he was, they sent him home.

In 1919, he enlisted as a private in the 10th Regiment Infantry State Guard. A year later he transferred to the Massachusetts National Guard and was commissioned a second lieutenant in the 110th Calvary.

Col. Tinkham entered into federal service in 1941 in the 180th Field Artillery Yankee Division as a captain. He was assigned to the American Division and served in the South Pacific for 32 months.

Before returning to the United States, he was transferred to the Transportation Corps. He served in Korea for 22 months.

He was awarded the Bronze Star, the American, European and Asian Theater Ribbons and the Korean Service Medal. He also received the United Nations Medal and the Enlisted Men's Good Conduct Medal.

He retired from the Army in December 1959.

Col. Tinkham served as Braintree's civil defense director from 1961 through 1983, when he retired at the age of 82 to take care of his wife. He was honored by the town for his efforts to prepare for disasters, including the Blizzard of 1978, which occurred on his watch.

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Continued from page 1

is your community and industry and their emergency personnel prepared to respond and recover? If you are in any way involved in the planning and preparation of personnel and equipment, are those personnel fully trained and is the equipment adequate and capable of responding?

The three day seminar being held is geared to give you an insight into the necessary components to build a comprehensive emergency response plan. This is one seminar your emergency preparedness personnel will not want to miss!

There are several agencies participating in the planning and organization of this event. Included are: the City of Boston Emergency Management, MASSPORT, Environmental Protection Agency, Massachusetts State Police, Massachusetts Fire Academy, New England States Emergency Consortium, State Emergency Management Agencies of: Connecticut, New Hampshire, Maine, Rhode Island, Vermont and New York, National Fire Protection Association, U.S. Army, Navy and Coast Guard, Massachusetts National Guard, Department of Environmental Protection, National Weather Service, City of Chelsea Emergency Management, Massachusetts Water Resources Authority, City of Boston EMS, FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Teams and others.

The First Annual All Hazard Conference will cover a broad range of natural and man-made disasters that have occurred over the past several years. This is an opportunity to hear and learn from first hand experiences and to experience what it felt like to be a part of the search

and rescue teams at the site of the Northridge earthquake and the Oklahoma City Bombing. You will learn more about the devastation wrought by Hurricane Andrew and go behind the scenes to learn about the security measures needed during the recent Papal visit to the United States and the security for the foreign dignitaries who attended the 50th Anniversary of the United Nations.

The Speaker List for this conference is an impressive gathering of officials from all aspects of emergency management, from first responders to lawyers, from local emergency management directors to State Directors, and from military to industry. FEMA Director James Lee Witt will be in attendance to speak to the general session and to participate in a Town Meeting Panel along with other State Directors to have an open discussion with local emergency management officials. The communications officer from Florida, John Fleming, will be on hand to discuss the overhaul of their communications system that occurred after the devastating Hurricane Andrew. There will be numerous officials from the National Weather Service to discuss everything from Hurricanes, Floods and yes—even Twisters! There will be Incident Command workshops, one by Bill Vargas, a National Expert in the field. Steve Emerson, an award winning producer will offer his film—*Jihad in America*, a must see for anyone involved in terrorism planning. Also along the lines of terrorism, there will be a presentation from members of both Interpol and the FBI to bring you up-to-the-minute information and technological advances. There are workshops on communications, both radio technology and new computer innovations for emergency managers. HAZMAT will be covered by both the Coast Guard and the

Massachusetts Office for Hazardous Material Response, and the fire service will present workshops ranging from dealing with confined space emergencies, to wildland fires to reactive chemicals. Public Information will be covered in several workshops, one conducted by Deputy Fire Chief Jon Hanson, of Oklahoma City Fire, the Public Information Officer during the bombing. Mitigation will be covered in workshops presented by the Insurance Industry, FEMA and National Weather Service. There are many, many more workshops and topics which will be of interest to just about everybody in this field.

There are several events occurring in conjunction with this workshop. FEMA will be conducting their Hurricane Summit on Wednesday and Thursday which will attract State Directors from the East Coast as well as FEMA officials. The Northern New England Disaster Recovery Information Exchange Group, NEDRIX, will be holding a meeting on Wednesday at the World Trade Center which will attract business and industries with an interest in emergency management.

There will be an exhibit hall filled with vendors and exhibitors displaying their products—the most up-to-date technologies and items for emergency management. This will be a unique opportunity for decision makers from both the private and public sector to view the up and coming products that the industries are manufacturing in all areas, from protective clothing to high-tech communications equipment.

The Demonstration Area is sure to be a highlight of the conference. In particular, there will be a Landing Platform Dock Amphibious Ship, the USS Ponce, a 570 foot U.S. Navy LPD-15 Class. This Naval Ship will be docked alongside the World Trade Center to demonstrate the

resources of the United States Military and what they can provide in a time of emergency. This particular ship could provide food, water and shelter for an entire community if needed. The Coast Guard will demonstrate their capabilities through the arrival of a 110 foot Coast Guard Cutter, and Boston Fire will provide a Ladder Truck, US Flag Display and Fire Boats. Inside demonstrations include, from Boston Fire: a Collapse Rescue Unit, a Tunnel Rescue Unit, the Metro Area Mobile Command Post, Metro Area HAZMAT Truck and the Fire Education Trailer. The Beverly MA FEMA Urban Search and Rescue Team and Equipment will be on hand for demonstrations, the Boston Police will provide Special Unit Vehicles and the Massachusetts State Police will demonstrate their Bomb Squad and Dive Team. The Massachusetts Statewide Emergency Telecommunications Board will demonstrate their Mobile PSAP (Public Safety Answering Point), there will be a NDMS Medical Unit display, the Coast Guard Mission Display Booth, the Veterans Administrations Mobile Health Clinic Van, the American Red Cross Vehicle, the FEMA MERS Vehicle and many more.

For this incredible program of workshops and demonstrations, the registration fee is only \$50.00. This \$50.00 fee also includes a luncheon on Friday at which the keynote speaker will be FEMA Director James Lee Witt. This conference is **NOT** to be missed. So, come join us, your friends and colleagues in the emergency management community. Come learn, remember and grow with us as we strive to be the most responsive, prepared and committed team of responders, planners, managers, and citizens we can be, for the benefit of those around us, our coworkers, friends, families and neighbors.

Town's Volunteers Serious and Always at the Ready

[Carol Lee Costa, *Crowell Standard-Times*]

Gerry Bergeron keeps count in his books of all the volunteer hours and donations from businessmen, residents and other towns.

As director of Acushnet's Emergency Management Agency, Mr. Bergeron pours lavish compliments on the 15 members of the organization who logged more than 1,500 volunteer hours for the town since July.

The team was on hand during the harsh winter as standby for the Board of Public Works, the fire or police or anywhere a resident needed a hand. The team picked up paint brushes, brooms and cleaning agents to make their new home on Hope Street spanking clean. The old Water Department building was first built to hold the Civil Defense group, predecessor to EMA.

"It was coming home for us," Mr. Bergeron said of the move to the new headquarters. It didn't matter that the place needed a face lift; volunteers put their heart and soul into the project.

Two years ago the agency got a real boost when Mr. Bergeron's counterpart in Dartmouth, Ed Pimental, donated a 1977 4-by-4 pickup truck. It required a lot of repairs but Mr. Bergeron and his crew soon had it in working order. "Thank God for that donation," Mr. Bergeron said. "We were using a 1953 Army Jeep that was a monster to drive. It took two people to turn the steering wheel. Once we fixed up this truck we could retire that old Jeep."

Last month Fairhaven EMA Director Marc Jodoin made a similar donation of another 3/4-ton pickup. That truck will replace an old bus with 200,000 miles on its odometer.

Once again Mr. Bergeron and his people will have to make some heavy-duty repairs, but the town will have a good working vehicle when they are done.

"You know, if it wasn't for the generosity of these two towns I don't know how we would manage with the old vehicles," Mr. Bergeron said.

And the generosity of residents and town business owners enabled his crew to make many of the repairs at the EMA building on Hope Street.

"Well, we donate our volunteer hours and town residents and businessmen donate money. It all goes back to the town because I believe we have a fine EMA," Mr. Bergeron said.

In his report for this year's town report, Mr. Bergeron explained to residents the duties his organization performs.

His director position is one appointed by the selectmen. Mr. Bergeron has served for almost four years.

"It was like taking something out of a dead hole and bringing it back to life," Mr. Bergeron said. "But the people who really deserve the credit are the 15 dedicated volunteers who make up the EMA."

"We serve as a liaison in the community for the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency and the federal EMA."

And the group is the source of information for residents to prepare for natural disasters such as winter storms and hurricanes, as well as assisting in several community events.



Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

Acushnet Emergency Management Director Gerry Bergeron and volunteer Kevin Gonneville pick up their new van donated and restored by Bristol County Sheriff David Nelson.



It is with great pleasure that the MEMA Disaster Recovery Department announces that the reimbursements for the January 1996 Blizzard have now reached \$25 million. The entire MEMA staff was very pleased to be able to assist the communities in off-setting some of the financial burdens of the Winter of '96.

As many of you know, on behalf of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, MEMA Director Dave Rodham challenged the Federal snow reimbursement criteria and was successful. His efforts resulted in a liberal reimbursement formula which benefited all.

Local Woman Helps Island Cleanup

[Glenn Smith, *Record Journal*, December 21, 1995]

When Diane Graf peered outside her friend's home on the morning of Sept. 16, 1995, she could hardly believe what she saw.

The Meriden native's neighborhood on the island of St. Thomas had been battered and abused by Hurricane Marilyn, a fierce storm that had struck the island the day before.

Boats had been torn from the harbor. Homes were destroyed. Utility poles had snapped in half and lay across every street.

"I didn't have much personal loss, but you could see what it had done to other people," Graf, 28, said in an interview from the island. "It was like, 'Where do you go from here?'"

Graf is now helping to answer that question through her work with the U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency. An interior designer and architectural draftsman, Graf was hired by FEMA after the hurricane to help with the process of rebuilding the island.

Ironically, while the storm wrought great damage upon the island, it also brought new career opportunities for Graf.

Graf has been busy designing headquarters for FEMA, the Army Corps of Engineers, the American Red Cross and other agencies to operate as they oversee the rebuilding of the island. She said she will soon design renovations to public housing on the island.

When she applied for the job, she was told she would have to work 12 hours a day, seven days a week. "I thought they were just saying

that to deter people, but it was true," she said with a laugh.

Graf said she expects that her job with FEMA will last at least a year. There is still much work to be done. Many of the buildings remain in disrepair and parts of the island are still without telephone service.

Hurricane Marilyn was the fourth hurricane to hit the Caribbean in as many weeks. Six people were killed on St. Thomas, one of the U.S. Virgin Islands, which is home to 51,000 people. FEMA said a quarter of the island's homes were destroyed and another 75 percent were damaged.

Graf rode out the storm with eight friends at a neighbor's home. The home, which had been built to withstand hurricanes, was fairly new. It had been built after Hurricane Hugo destroyed their previous home in 1989.

The storm bore down on the island in the evening, whipping trees, rattling shutters and tossing things about. The wind became so powerful it blew out a steel hurricane shutter on the window of her friends' home.

As the group struggled to reinforce the window, three other steel shutters began to buckle. Water began to leak into the house from every corner as Graf and her friends used their backs to brace the weakening shutters.

Shortly after 11 P.M., the hurricane winds blew into the house, tossing two of Graf's friends across the room. One person received a minor concussion, Graf said.

Wind and rain could be heard battering the house, peeling off pieces of timber and steel. The group briefly took refuge in the master bedroom, but everyone was soon forced into a bathroom when water began pouring through the ceiling.

By morning, the inside of the house was barely recognizable, Graf said. Walls had fallen

to the floor and fine china was smashed all over the carpet. The lush green vegetation outside was now brown.

"It wasn't supposed to be that bad," Graf wrote her mother. "No one expected anything like this."

Community Participation in Emergency Management

[Perry G. Cayton, Director of Fire Services, Arlington]

Pittsfield Auxiliary Police Officer Saves Baby's Life

[John Pappas]

Chloe Carrigan, who is 11 weeks old, was suffering from a common infant malady—an ear infection. Her mother, Rebecca, was giving her prescribed liquid medication, when the baby girl suddenly turned blue. Terrified, Rebecca Carrigan shouted for help, then noticed the familiar truck of her neighbor, Mark Johnson, parked outside. "I knew that he knew CPR, so I brought the baby upstairs." Mark took the baby and began infant CPR, while a friend called 911. When the ambulance arrived less than two minutes later, Chloe was breathing on her own. "I don't know what would have happened without him," Chloe's mother said.

Mark Johnson, a member of the Pittsfield Emergency Management Auxiliary Police, later received a Certificate of Appreciation from MEMA Area III Manager John Pappas.

The town of Arlington over the past few years has experienced a large population increase from early spring through late fall due to the popularity of the Minuteman Bike Path. The path begins in Cambridge, runs through Arlington, and ends in Bedford. Arlington Emergency Management volunteers have enabled the town to have constant patrolling of the path to help ensure the safety of its users. This diverse group of young people were given bikes and radios to patrol the path, and are able to offer minor first aid, and answer questions. For serious problems they're able to quickly summon help over their radios.

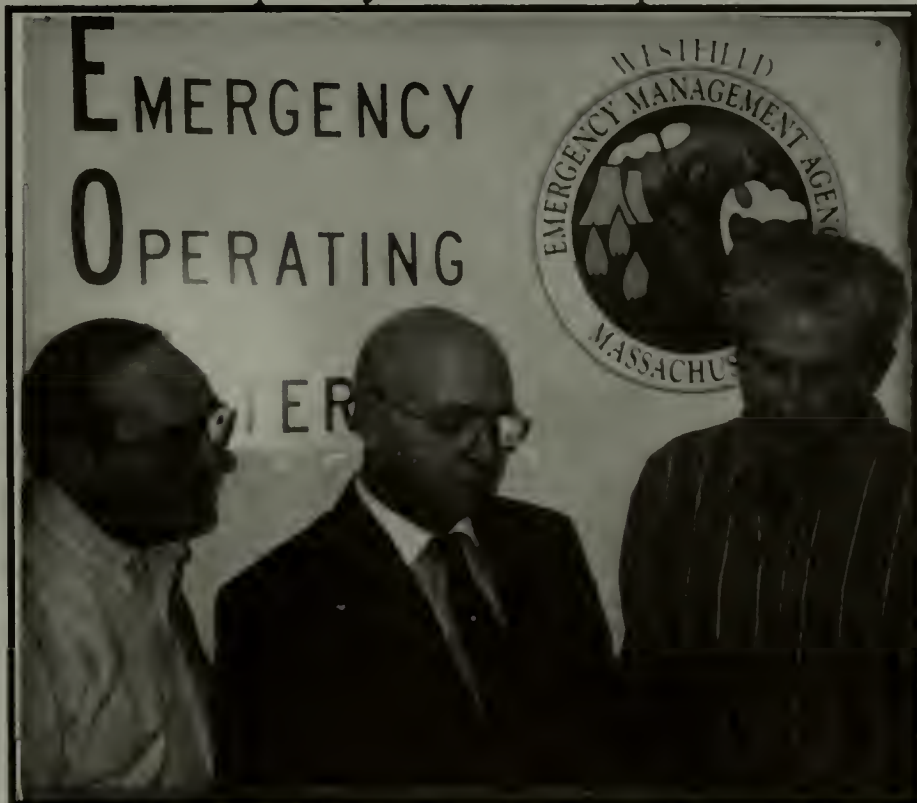


Photo courtesy of John Pappas

Bob Wilgus, Westfield Emergency Management Director with John Pappas, MEMA Area III Manager and Paul Driscoll, Westfield Deputy Emergency Management Director.

CONFERENCE

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 1996**11:00 AM—12:00 PM**

- ◆ Is your facility truly current with all Emergency Planning and Community Right-to-Know Requirements?
- ◆ The Emergency Communications Link: Will it be there?
- ◆ Weather without Warning—Is Mitigation Possible?
- ◆ The ICS Executive Overview—Who's in Charge of What?
- ◆ Jihad in America
- ◆ Disaster Triage for EMS Personnel
- ◆ Regional Response—Optimizing Industry & Government Planning, Exercising and Response
- ◆ Hazards Associates with Aircraft Incidents for the First Responder

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 1996**1:15 PM—2:30 PM**

- ◆ All Hazard Plans
- ◆ Coordination and Communication between National Weather Service and Emergency Management
- ◆ Assistance is Available to the Emergency Manager and the Community in a Post Disaster Situation
- ◆ Integrated Emergency Management, Common Systems for Common Purposes
- ◆ International Terrorism
- ◆ Medical Response to Biochemical Terrorism—Millions of Casualties in Minutes?
- ◆ In Hazardous Materials Disasters Can Fire Departments Do it Alone? Multi Agency Response Considerations
- ◆ Interagency Communications

WEDNESDAY JUNE 26, 1996**3:00 PM—4:15 PM**

- ◆ Dispatch Center Operations—Public/Private Sector Interfacing
- ◆ Information Technology for Disaster Management—Comprehensive Software Systems prove their Value
- ◆ Earthquakes in New England
- ◆ Organizing Chaos: Some Field Tested Approaches to Disaster Coordination
- ◆ Local Terrorism Threat
- ◆ Protecting the Public—Evacuation v. Shelter-in-Place
- ◆ Maritime Hazardous Material Transportation and Marine Incident Response
- ◆ Planned Disaster Response: The 100th Marathon—50,000 runner, plans that worked!

Thursday June 27, 1996**8:30 AM—9:45 AM**

- ◆ National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration Support during HAZMAT Incident Response
- ◆ Government Reimbursement Programs—\$\$\$
- ◆ Who Needs to Know, How to Reach them—Public Information in a Disaster
- ◆ Can you Stop a Flood
- ◆ What you can Expect from the Federal Government in an Air Crash
- ◆ Building Security
- ◆ Confined Space Emergencies: Who is Responsible?
- ◆ The New York World Trade Center Bombing
- ◆ Animals in Disasters—The Forgotten Victims

AGENDA

Thursday June 27, 1996**10:15 AM—11:15 AM**

- ◆ Combining Environmental/Emergency Plans into One Plan for your Facility
- ◆ Dam Safety
- ◆ Communications in the 21st Century
- ◆ Railroad Incident Management
- ◆ Terrorism Takes Hold in America
- ◆ Assisting Emergency Management Workers with Stress from a Disaster
- ◆ The Politics of Incident Management
- ◆ No Time Like the Present: Coordinating Mutual Aid Agreements
- ◆ Specialized Technical Support for Emergency Response

Thursday June 27, 1996**11:15 AM—12:15 PM**

- ◆ Business Resumption Plans
- ◆ Hazard Mitigation: Planning and Implementation
- ◆ Highway Incident Response—A Team Approach
- ◆ New Terrorism Technology
- ◆ Health and Safety Programs
- ◆ Warm and Fuzzy Feelings—Chemical Identification or Chemical Exposure
- ◆ Cameo Presentation—The Very Latest!
- ◆ Mass Casualty Incidents—The New York World Trade Center
- ◆ Public Information in a Disaster

Friday June 28, 1996**8:30 AM—10:00 AM**

- ◆ IIPLR: The Insurance Industry's Mitigation Arm
- ◆ MERS—GETS Urban Search and Rescue Program
- ◆ Critical Incident Management—Are the Old Ways Good Enough?
- ◆ Super Terrorism—The Threat of Chemical/Biological/Nuclear Terrorism
- ◆ Emergency Department SOP's for Hazardous Material Incidents
- ◆ Reactive Chemicals
- ◆ Strategic Planning in Emergency Management—Changes in Attitudes

Friday June 28, 1996**10:30 AM—12:00 PM**

- ◆ Structural Wildland Interzone Fires/Wildland Urban Interface
- ◆ The Success of Enhanced 9-1-1 in Massachusetts
- ◆ Hurricanes and Nor'Easters—What are the Consequences of a Big One?
- ◆ Local Emergency Planning Committee (LEPC) Certification
- ◆ ICS—Unified Command for Major Incidents—Can it Really Work?
- ◆ The Derailment of the Sunset Limited
- ◆ OSHA and Liability Issues
- ◆ The Uses for the Internet in Emergency Management
- ◆ Debris Management Issues

TWISTER !

[Roger F. Turner, Jr., Director, Walpole Emergency Management]

Walpole Emergency Management asks: "Do you remember?" It was the second week in June, the year was 1953, the same week as the annual Village Fair, and the day of the Worcester tornado.

We remember how the day started out, oh, so nice. As the afternoon progressed, the sky turned very quickly, very dark, and many people headed for home.

It wasn't until late afternoon that we began to hear about the Worcester tornado and the damage that it left behind in Worcester, Millis and the Wampum Corner of Wrentham. There were even reports of finding remnants of Worcester debris in parts of Walpole and Boston.

After the Worcester tornado, members of the Walpole Fire Department were called to assist the residents of Worcester in the aftermath.

Could it happen again? The answer is yes.

The spring and early summer months are generally considered the tornado season and the frequency of more severe weather patterns are actually increasing. Over the past years, the National Weather Service (NWS) has issued several tornado warnings for our area.

Today, with the new weather radar, and with improvements in weather spotting, reporting and forecasting, forecasters are often able to provide better warning. Unfortunately, tornadoes are extremely destructive, move very fast, are unpredictable, and just seem to pop up without any real warning.

The NWS makes every effort to put out warnings over the NOAA weather radio, to all local

and state public safety offices, and to local and national news services. Even with all of this, there is no warning system in place that can warn all the people all of the time.

Tornadoes are nature's most violent storms. Tornadoes seem to appear out of nowhere and are often associated with other unstable weather conditions such as severe thunderstorms, hurricanes and even winter storms.

The power of a tornado can clear a path a few hundred feet to a mile or so wide and travel distances of just a few to 100 or so miles. They can touch down in one spot and then skip one area and touch down in another. Wind speeds can be upward of 300 miles per hour.

Characteristically, a tornado appears as a counterclockwise rotating funnel-shaped cloud which, when it touches the ground, tears apart and burls through the air anything in its path.

If a tornado is forecast for your area, or you expect a tornado is on its way, or you see a funnel cloud, immediately seek appropriate shelter.

Monitor NOAA weather radio, your local radio, TV, or the cable weather channel.

Stay away from windows, doors, outside walls, and go to the cellar. If there is no cellar, go to an interior room, interior hallway or closet on the lowest level. Stay away from open spaces and always protect your face and head.

If you are in a mobile home or trailer, get out and seek shelter in a substantial structure. If there is no shelter, find refuge in a culvert or ditch, or lie flat in a ditch. Always remember to protect your face and head.

Do not try to outrun a tornado. Tornadoes are very erratic and move very swiftly. After a tornado has passed, or if you must travel through an area that has just experienced a tor-

nado, watch out for downed power lines and other hazardous debris.

The Walpole Emergency Management Disaster Committee recommends that every family develop a home disaster plan. This plan should be a family project.

Survey your home for the best location for a storm shelter. Practice going to your designated shelter location. In the event of fire or structural damage to your home, learn, teach and practice how to safely leave your home. If you become separated from family members, go to a predetermined meeting location.

Continue to check the proper operation of safety warning devices such as smoke detectors, and NOAA weather radio, and change batteries twice a year.

Maintain a 72-hour emergency pack. Rotate and date food and water supplies. Maintain an

up-to-date prescription list for each member of the family. A copy of this list should be kept in individual wallets and might also be kept on the refrigerator door for all to see. Emergency response people will also look for a list at that location.

Maintain an up-to-date emergency phone number list along with a list of relatives and close friends. Maintain an ongoing medical history of each member of the family. This is invaluable information when needed and should also be part of your 72-hour emergency kit.

Emergency first aid kits should be periodically checked and old or outdated supplies should be replenished. All items with a shelf life, such as aspirin or other medications, should be marked with the expiration date.

Emergency preparedness begins with the family.



Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

R.A.C.E.S. radio officers: Bill Foster, Bob Mims and Lennie Amabile participating in an exercise at Area II. Bob Mims serves as the Net Control for Area II.

Mock Twister Tests Emergency Teams

[Cosmo Macero Jr., *Metro East Union News*, May 4, 1996]

A mock tornado staged to train disaster teams touched down [in Sturbridge] in the minds of more than 100 participants about 10 A.M. on May 3, 1996.

And, if there had been an actual emergency, civil defense officials say they would have been pleased with response from emergency teams and assistance from nearby communities.

The drill continued for two days. National Guardsmen blocked off the simulated disaster area, and the American Red Cross continued its classroom training at a shelter set up in Burgess Elementary School. In all, about 350 emergency management personnel from around New England participated in the state-sponsored program.

Communication networks and mutual-aid response plans were put to the test. And, in a region where small communities depend on each other in times of crisis, the responses were quick and prolific.

"We use test messages and go out over the air, then we notify them when they're off test alert," said Richard Butterworth, director of civil defense for Sturbridge. "We got responses from as far away as Springfield and Longmeadow."

In a real disaster, Butterworth said, local officials would declare a townwide state of emergency and then look to the governor's office to dispatch more assistance.

For instance, flight crews conducted mock aerial surveillance of the affected area — a move that in most cases would be made once the Mas-

sachusetts Emergency Management Agency becomes involved.

John T. Pappas, a regional manager for MEMA, who helped organize relief following last year's deadly tornado in Great Barrington, said when the weekend training is over his agency, Red Cross and local officials will critique the effort.

"As with any exercise there is always room for improvement," he said.

Volunteer agencies also got in their practice, with the Southern Baptist Convention and Salvation Army feeding trainees in the same way as if they were disaster victims and weary rescue crews.

The affected streets were blocked off and houses tagged with color-coded ribbons. Volunteer workers trained in assessing damage toured the areas.

"Sometimes it can be confusing. This is really a test for us to make sure we can work together," said Beth Luczek, director of development for the Red Cross' Pioneer Valley chapter.

Luczek's crew brought their "logistical initial response vehicle" — a sort of office on wheels with fax machines, copiers, typewriters and paperwork that aid recipients must fill out.

The truck is used to help coordinate all Red Cross activity from a single location at a disaster site.

To coincide with the weekend training sessions, Gov. William F. Weld proclaimed May 4, 1996, Volunteer Organizations Act in Disasters (VOAD) Day.

PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR

[Doug Forbes, Jr.]

On May 18, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency (MEMA) held its sixth annual Public Safety Fair at the South Weymouth Naval Air Station. The fair, entitled "Safety Fest 96", featured events that promoted public safety and emergency management awareness, including displays and demonstrations. Displays included: state and local emergency equipment and vehicles, fingerprinting for children, the new mobile feeding kitchen from the Southern Baptist Convention, the clothing distribution unit from the Seventh Day Adventists, a multi-use truck from the American Red Cross, the re-modeled communications and command truck from the Civil Air Patrol and much more!

The highlights of the day were: the Safety Beetle Bug parade, the police officers bike race (won by Brockton for the second year), the Adventurous Skydiving Show, the K-9 and Jaws of Life demonstration, the HAZMAT spill simulation and a special appearance by New England Revolution soccer players.

Entertainment was provided by the Blue Dog Band, who are featured at the Hard Rock Cafe in Boston.

A special awards ceremony was conducted by David Rodham, the Undersecretary of Public Safety, Tom Rodger, our Area II Manager, and John Pappas, our Area III Manager. Robert Button, the Mansfield Emergency Management Director, was named Director of the Year for Area II. Robert Wilgus, the Westfield Emergency Management Director, was named Director of the Year for Area III. Robert Gibbons, Net Control for Canton, and former RACES Net Control for Area II for over twenty years, was named the Communicator of the Year. Jack Williams was named the Area II Unsung Hero. And finally, Eastern Utilities and the Massachusetts Property Insurance Underwriting Association were honored for their support of the fair.

The Fair was truly a media event with the giant Ackerly billboards on the highway, the electronic signs in several locations, coverage by radio, TV, cable, weekly and daily newspapers and more. Highlights of media coverage included live interviews with Tom Rodger, the IBEW sign on the southeast expressway and the inclusion of Fair information in Eastern Edison's bills to over 300,000 homes.



Photo courtesy of Doug Forbes, Jr.

Undersecretary of Public Safety David Rodham, South Weymouth Naval Air Commanding Officer R.A. Duetsch, and Area II Manager Thomas Rodger kick off MEMA's "Safety Fest '96."

State, Local Officials Meet to Critique Storm Planning

[Jack Coleman, *The Brockton Enterprise*, June 4, 1996]

State and local officials meeting for a "post-incident critique" in Whitman credited teamwork and pre-storm emergency planning with preventing additional injuries and destruction in the freak storm that ripped through the area on May 21.

"It's obvious that this community had a plan that worked," said Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency Director Peter G. LaPorte. "You should be commended for a job well done."

After the fast-moving tornado-like downburst passed, leaving a swath of destruction, emergency personnel responded without need of prompting, noted one official. "In this particular case, the plan came together," said Whitman Emergency Management Agency Director Robert S. Schmitt.

The storm injured at least three residents, trapped a young woman in her car, and caused an estimated one million dollars in damage. Scores of homes suffered varying degrees of damage caused by fallen trees or broken limbs pushed by 100-mph plus wind gusts.

"There was good local coordination under difficult conditions," said Thomas P. Rodger, Area II Manager of the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency.

Gov. Weld declared a state of emergency a day after the storm, with National Guard troops and other state agencies sent to the town to help clean up and restore utilities. Local schools can-

celed classes for two days and the middle school was opened to serve as a shelter.

Meeting for nearly an hour at Town Hall after the storm, some two dozen officials representing state and local police, fire, highway, DPW, relief organizations and town departments discussed emergency response to the storm and ways it could be improved for the next time.

"No matter how much planning you do, you don't realize the impact until it hits," noted Police Chief John R. Schnyer.

The consensus was that the local reaction was rapid, coordination between agencies smooth and glitches few in number. "From the standpoint of looking back, it looked pretty good," LaPorte said. "There were no turf battles, no attitudes."

Col. David W. Gavigan, Assistant Adjutant General with the National Guard, suggested more tree limbs near power lines be cut down to reduce the extent of power failures in future storms. Department of Public Works Superintendent Richard Avery pointed out that crews from Eastern Edison have been trimming branches near power lines and removing trees as needed in town for about a year.

"If they had been in place, the disaster would have been a lot worse," Avery said. He added that his workers had just finished for the day when the storm hit, then reported back to duty to work through the night.

Some 95 percent of the town's residents lost electrical power, with power restored for 96 percent of them within 48 hours, said Eastern Edison Consumer Services Representative Dale S. Hermanson. About 37 poles were knocked down.

After the meeting, LaPorte said that state emergency planning had greatly improved in five years since Hurricane Bob in August, 1991.

which served as a "wake-up" call for emergency planners.

Gavigan said there is a sure sign that the disruption caused by the storm had passed.

"As far as I'm concerned, if everyone has cable back, the emergency is over," he quipped.

North Attleboro Planning Seeks to Cut Emergency Risks

[Gloria LaBounty, *Sun Chronicle*]

Those windsocks that can be seen near manufacturing buildings around North Attleboro are not there for aesthetics.

They actually help public safety officials analyze wind direction during a hazardous waste incident or chemical spill.

Fire Chief Robert Coleman says firefighters check the windsocks as they approach a building during an emergency so they will know which way the chemical fumes and gases are headed.

Coleman said a make-shift windsock was used at the scene of the rupture of an Algonquin natural gas pipeline on Route 1, and a portable one is kept on department vehicles. Coleman also keeps close tabs on the latest weather reports so he will be aware of any expected shifts in wind directions, especially during storms.

Federal laws require any facility using chemicals considered to be "extremely hazardous" to file reports that include full inventories and lo-

cations of chemicals. Public safety officials then use the reports to develop emergency plans.

Coleman said hazardous incidents fall into three categories—those that can be handled mostly by company personnel, those that are more hazardous and involve the fire department and some evacuation, and the third type that involves a major hazard and mass evacuation. The Algonquin incident fell into the last category.

Coleman said the Algonquin incident demonstrated how a substance like natural gas does not dissipate into the air during a snowstorm or heavy rain, and instead can drop towards the rooftops of nearby buildings.

Even the town's wastewater treatment plant has to report its chemicals, such as the storage of chlorine and propane, and Coleman said the emergency committee has met several times with public works officials to review plans for that facility.

Coleman said chemicals are in use throughout the town and in every community, and can be used safely if handled properly.

"We are no different than any other town," said Coleman.

Wanted

Military "DUKW" 6 x 6 amphibious truck or parts and manuals wanted by a Military Vehicle Preservationist. Other military vehicles also wanted. Please call Manny Rogers at (617) 661-5654 for more information.

When Disaster Strikes

[Valerie Kroon, *Pembroke Mariner*, January 3, 1996]

Since joining the disaster recovery team for the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) two years ago, Dana Johnson says, "It's been a busy two years."

Johnson, a lifelong Pembroke resident, returned in November from St. Croix in the Virgin Islands where he worked two months as a recovery center worker following the disastrous destruction rendered by Hurricane Marilyn on Sept. 15 and 16.

After the hurricane struck, Johnson was called in to help local residents apply for federal assistance under the FEMA program. The program is in place solely to help those who are uninsured, to put a roof over their heads and supply them with the very basic necessities.

"St. Croix was tough because there was no water or electricity," Johnson said in describing the disaster response process. "There's a lot to it that people don't realize. They have to find a building to handle our center. Most of the time there won't be electricity. So they have to set up a generator to run the facility and a communications system by satellite."

For the first three weeks after he arrived, Johnson said it was "touch and go," with no electricity and no way to get a phone call into the island. Electricity had not yet been fully restored to the island when he left two months later.

Another problem for the FEMA first response team is to acquire housing accommodations for the recovery center workers. Often hotels are destroyed in the disaster and any rooms available must fall within federal cost guidelines.

"It could have been tents, but it wasn't," Johnson said of accommodations in St. Croix. "You don't know. They don't tell you what to put in your suitcase—just to show up."

A FEMA emergency response worker usually has one to two days to arrive on site after being called. They book their own flights but are given preference.

After arriving at the disaster area, the responders always hire and train local residents so FEMA workers can eventually be sent home.

Of the seven disasters he's responded to in the past two years, Johnson said, "Every disaster is different, every flood, every storm. Every culture is different, even in the United States. Louisiana is different from Georgia—different housing, different styles."

Many people living in low-lying areas that are prone to disasters are poor, uninsured and often illiterate. It is the FEMA worker's job to help them through the application process and to walk them through the government program. Very often this is done over the phone where disaster victims call in on an 800 line.

Johnson worked his first six disasters responding to calls on the 800 help line. He worked seven months following the Northridge, Calif., earthquake, four months in San Francisco and three months based in Denver.

"Basically we were troubleshooters for them, and listeners—you're sort of a counselor at the same time as you're getting them through the program," he said, adding that FEMA workers are trained to respond to suicide crisis cases.

After the earthquake, Johnson then manned an 800 line in San Francisco following the floods in Georgia, Alabama and Florida.

"I talked with people who were sitting on rooftops all night, two feet from the water," he

said of the flooding disaster. "They lose everything. Not just the house, it's the personal belongings."

While responding to flood victims' calls, the Oklahoma City bombing took place and Johnson was switched to a line to take what the government initially expected would be terrorist calls. Following a couple of weeks at home, he was next called to Denton Texas, working a line in the housing department after the Los Angeles floods.

After a three-month break last summer, he was called to St. Croix. This was his first job working face to face with disaster victims.

One major obstacle in St. Croix was a lack of deeds to property, with residents owning land passed down through generations. It is the FEMA worker's job to help them establish ownership so a homeowner would be eligible for funds.

"I like to travel and I like to help people," Johnson said of his reasons for getting into the FEMA disaster response team program, which is not a full-time government job. "You never know where you're going—you have no idea until the phone call comes."

Johnson said the FEMA team, approximately 50 in St. Croix, is always provided a crisis counselor who is there as much for staff as for residents applying for assistance.

"FEMA makes sure their help is taken care of as far as emotions go," Johnson said of his job where it's not unusual to respond to 200 calls in a day. "When you go out on a disaster you have to be ready to work 10 to 12 hours a day—but it could be more—seven days a week.

Hurricane Training

[*The Chronicle*, March 31, 1996]

Civil Defense Director Michael McCarthy was one of 30 Massachusetts officials to take part in an intensive one week course on storms at the new Hurricane Center in Miami, Florida.

Mr. McCarthy, who has served as Civil Defense Director in Westport for 15 years, was one of 20 officials from towns who joined 10 state officials to take the course.

"I felt so honored to have been chosen to take the course. It taught me a lot and I am planning to take that knowledge to others," Director McCarthy said. He already had a meeting planned with his ham radio operators.

The course ran February 12 through February 16 and went over computer programs, forecasting, emergency training, tracking storms, and a host of other emergency related activities.

The instruction included work at the National Hurricane Center, located on the campus of Florida International University in Miami.

"It was the most intensive course I have had in my life. We learned in five days what it might have taken a year of one course to learn," Director McCarthy said.

This visit included only Massachusetts representatives and they included directors from communities which would be most likely affected by coastal storms including New Bedford, Harwich, Chatham, Sandwich, Plymouth and others.

The director is proud of the fact that no one has been lost in a storm during his 15 years at the post and noted that is no accident.

"The coordination and cooperation we have with town agencies during storms has been a big help and I hope this course will add to that," he said.

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MEMA News

CEM Plans now
provided on
computer
diskette to each
community.
See below for
details.

Winter 1997

Volume IV, Number 3

October 1996 Storm Update

Thirteen months after a Nor'easter hit parts of Massachusetts, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency has assisted in the reimbursing of some 33.6 million in Federal Disaster Assistance to cities, towns, small businesses and private homeowners.

Following the October 25th Presidential disaster declaration, people in the counties of Middlesex, Essex, Suffolk, Plymouth and Norfolk became eligible to apply for Federal Disaster Assistance.

The Disaster Housing Program, administered by the Federal Emergency Management Agency, has committed some \$17 million to help homeowners and renters. This program specifically provides funds for people to rent alterna-

Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning

The CEM plan format used by the communities to update their CEM plan has been revised this year. The goal was to streamline the plan information and provide more direct access to important information such as resources and emergency telephone numbers. The approach taken includes: condensing annex and appendix information where possible, eliminating



repetition, and placing key resource and telephone information in a Resource Manual. The Resource Manual provides direct access to information by subject, and improved capabil-

ity to update the data independent of the main CEM text. The plan revision will continue during 1998 with attention to updating all-hazard information, and a new plan cover page and binder to complement the condensed plan.

Also new this year, updated CEM plans will be entered into the MEMA Document Control program. Document Control records the plan edition, and allows update of all or portions of the plan with a record of

(Continued on page 2)

Workshops in Emergency Management

Emergency management has come to the forefront in recent years and has gained nationwide attention as a result of several major disasters that have occurred. Recognizing the importance of these issues at the local level, each of the three Mas-

sachusetts Emergency Management Agency area directors hosted a Workshop in Emergency Management.

These informational workshops covered a variety of subjects, with the focus on emergency management activities

and issues that normally confront local cities and towns.

Each of the workshops was extremely well received with approximately 80% of the communities represented statewide. The third and

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Comprehensive Emergency Management Planning

(Continued from page 1)

changes maintained. Communities will be provided with multiple hard copies and a computer diskette copy of their plan. The computer file can be used by the community to update the plan and Resource Manual as needed, and during the periodic plan update schedule with MEMA.

More than sixty CEM plans were updated during 1997 and another seventy-one are scheduled for 1998. The CEM plan updates are coordinated through MEMA Area offices with the local communities. Planning workshops are conducted for local officials at each area office for the communities scheduled for an update. Currently, updates are scheduled every four years, but communities are encouraged to update their

plans on an annual or semi-annual basis. MEMA area personnel follow-up the workshops with visits to the communities to assist in the plan update process. This includes completing a Data Collection Package (DCP) which contains key plan information. The DCP records changes to resource, personnel, special needs/facility and hazard vulnerability information. The DCP is intended to include key elements needed in the plan and direction to community officials who may not be familiar with emergency plan requirements. The plan is open to additional community-based planning concerns, and may provide information to address particular circumstances.

Looking forward to 1998, MEMA Planning will be working on

several projects that will be shared with local communities.

These will include:

- ♦ Major Aircraft Crash Plan
- ♦ Donated Goods Plan
- ♦ Debris Removal Plan

In closing, cooperation between MEMA and community-based emergency management is critical to improving mutual capability to handle large-scale emergencies in the Commonwealth. With this in mind, MEMA will continue to improve the planning effort and products serving the community.

Mike Philbin is the Director of Planning for MEMA.

Workshops in Emergency Management

(Continued from page 1)

final workshop, in Area III, was especially well attended with close to 400 in the audience. Attendees included representatives from the Massachusetts State Legislature, state and local officials, local emergency management directors and emergency responders. Following introductions, welcomes and program overviews by each of the Area Directors, Peter LaPorte, Director, Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency opened each workshop with a presentation on Massachusetts Emergency Management Programs and the Vision for the Future.

Special guest speakers included David Rodham, Undersecretary, Executive Office of Public Safety and past president of the National Emergency Management Association as well as Peter Abair,



Peter Abair, Director of the Governor's Western Massachusetts Office

Director, Governor's Office for Western Massachusetts.

Displays of some of the most current emergency management equipment were available for viewing at each of the workshops. Special recognition awards were presented to the following people:

Edgar "Pete" Bardin for 50 years of service as EM Director for the town of Dalton, Donna Gordon for professionalism in emergency management for the city of Taunton, Lieutenant Mark Boldrighini for high standard of excellence in emergency management in the city of Lowell, and Deputy Chief Robert Donahue of Massport Fire/Rescue for superior direction of the Belle Isle Marsh Exercise.

All participants walked away with a broad knowledge and understanding of emergency management and are looking forward to more workshops in Emergency Management in the future.

Barbara Legatowicz is a Regional Planner in charge of the Nuclear Planning Training Program.

tive housing or to make emergency repairs to make a home habitable.

An additional \$1.8 million in federal and state money has been reimbursed through a state-run Individual and Family Grant Program which provided emergency funds to meet serious disaster-related needs or necessary expenses which could not be met in any other way.

The Small Business Administration approved \$14.8 million in low interest loans to homeowners, businesses and renters for replacing uninsured real or personal property.

The Public Assistance program has allocated some \$60 million more for cities, towns and state agencies to assist with the costs associated with emergency protective measures and to assist with the repair or replacement of damaged public facilities such as roads, bridges, and utilities.

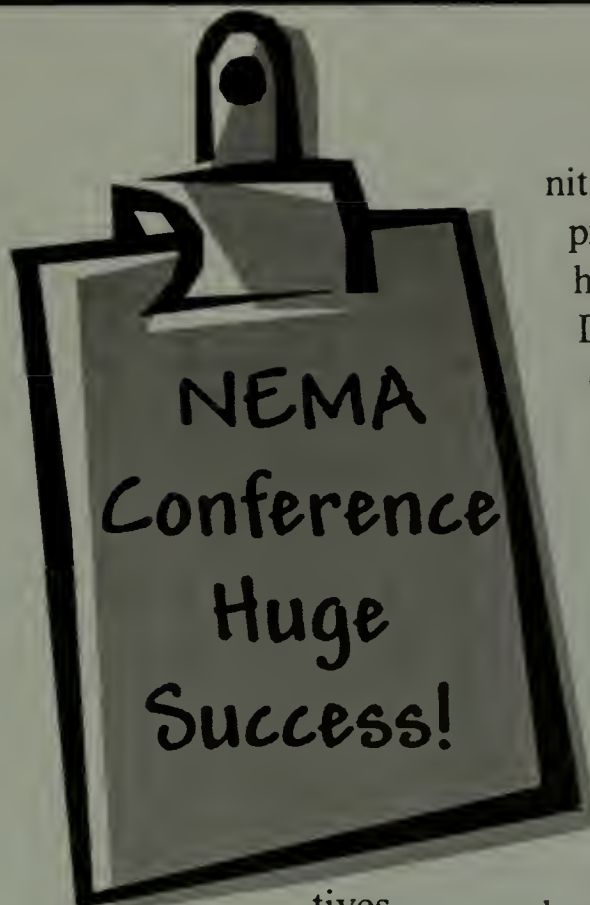
Municipalities were eligible to apply for additional funds to pay for long-term, cost-effective measures to reduce or prevent damage in the future.

Cris McCombs is the Disaster Recovery Manager at MEMA.

The National Emergency Management Association held its Annual Conference at the Westin Hotel in Boston during the week of August 24th. This conference was a huge success. It was represented by 47 states and over 300 were in attendance. The weather was perfect and the facilities were excellent.

Our very own David Rodham, President of NEMA and present Undersecretary of Public Safety ran the meetings in the utmost professional manner and deserves a huge congratulations on a job well done.

The conference itself was very challenging. The presentations emphasized the growing importance of emergency management. One highlight of the conference was James Lee Witt, Director of FEMA. He stressed the importance of teamwork among the local, state and federal representa-



tives.

Tony Siciliano, Quincy Emergency Management brought his team of young people and encouraged all to embrace the up and coming generation and make them part of local emergency management. Director Witt presented Quincy Emergency Management with an award.

President Rodham's reception was held at the Massachusetts State House with historical characters greeting us as we arrived. The hospitality, food and the overall spirit was just spectacular. The NEMA State Dinner, held at Anthony's Pier Four overlooking Boston Harbor was very elegant. In special recog-

niton and a most appropriate way to honor President Dave Rodham and end a very successful conference, the Boston Fire Department fire boat came by Anthony's and did a salute to the NEMA membership.

Director

Peter LaPorte's leadership and his staff participation also helped make this conference such a huge success. Trina Hembree, Executive Director of NEMA told Director LaPorte that "this was the easiest conference she has ever had." She was able to concentrate more on the meetings knowing that MEMA was handling all the logistics. She gave MEMA a big thank you!

Katy Bellemare is Peter LaPorte's Executive Assistant.

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1998 National REP Conference Just Around the Corner

The 1998 National Radiological Emergency Preparedness Conference will be held right in our own back yard this year. The Conference, which covers all aspects of planning for nuclear power plants, will be held April 27-29 at the Cape Codder Hotel in Hyannis.

MEMA News

1997 Busy Year for Nuclear Planning

1997 was a very successful year for the Nuclear Safety Division of MEMA and for all those at the town level who really make it happen.

The spring saw the full-scale Graded Exercise of Vermont Yankee, involving Bernardston, Colrain, Gill, Greenfield, Leyden, Northfield, and Warwick. Spring also brought us the equally successful Graded Exercise of the

Greenfield Community College Reception Center.

Summer brought the move of the Reception Center for Pilgrim from the South Weymouth Naval Air Station to the Braintree High School.

Fall saw the successful full-scale Graded Exercise of Pilgrim Station, involving Plymouth, Kingston, Carver, Duxbury and Marshfield.

The Emergency Broadcast System played its last tune during the Pilgrim Exercise and has now been replaced by the Emergency Alert System.

1998 promises to be a busy year with many off-year activities at both Vermont Yankee and Pilgrim, and preparations already well underway for the June 3 full-scale Graded Exercise of Seabrook Station.

MEMA



NEWS

2nd Quarter, 1998

MEMA NEWS is published quarterly by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Public Information Office - Framingham, MA.
To submit stories to this newsletter please send them to MEMA Headquarters attention: Public Information Officer.

Response '98 Big Success

Hurricane Janet swept up the East Coast in April, packing winds of more than 130 MPH, and wreaking havoc in Massachusetts and other Northeast states and Canada. This was the scenario for Response '98, the largest civil hurricane preparedness exercise of its kind. The exercise involved eight states, four Canadian Provinces, and more than 350 cities and towns throughout the region.

The MEMA Emergency Operations Center (EOC) was activated and fully staffed in Framingham, along with EOCs at MEMA Area I, II and III field offices. EOCs in more than 70 Massachusetts cities and towns were also activated at the local level.

"Response '98 was an excellent test of our capability to deal with a major disaster," said MEMA Director Peter G. LaPorte. "It gave MEMA and other state and local agencies an opportunity to assess and evaluate plans, policies and

procedures for responding to a major hurricane at the federal, state and local levels."

The MEMA EOC Operations Room was buzzing with activity over a three-day period, as representatives from more than 30 state, federal and volunteer agencies dealt with requests for aid from their departments. Hurricane Janet may have been fiction, but the response procedures were very real as agencies determined how they would



MEMA Director, Peter G. LaPorte, takes a call in the Operations Room during Exercise Response '98.

deal with massive power outages, evacuations, and other emergency needs.

All Emergency Support Functions (ESFs) in the Ops Room were linked together via a new computer system, which received its first major trial under exercise conditions. "This was a crucial test of inter-agency cooperation and coordination," said Director LaPorte. Other new elements successfully tested were a satellite up-link tele-

MEMA Prepares for Hurricane Season

With predictions of a more active hurricane season (June 1-November 30) for 1998, the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency is gearing up to increase public awareness about these potentially devastating storms.

MEMA's Area 2 Field Office is sponsoring two hurricane preparedness workshops during the month of July. The first is scheduled for July 9 at 7pm at White's Restaurant in Westport, MA, while the second will be held July 22 at 7pm at Bourne High School, Bourne, MA. Speakers will discuss the history of hurricanes in New England and offer tips for hurricane preparedness, and brochures and other hurricane information will be distributed. Both workshops are free and open to the public.

On July 22, MEMA and Bell Atlantic will co-sponsor a Hurricane Utility Conference at the Bell Atlantic Training Center in Marlboro. This conference will discuss how hurricanes and other severe storms can affect telephone, electric and other utilities, and what utilities can do to help minimize the damage and disruption of service.

On September 17, MEMA and

(Continued on page 3)

WHAT'S INSIDE:

WHAT'S NEW AT MEMA
PROVINCETOWN FIRE
CEM PLANS
CALENDAR

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WHAT'S NEW AT MEMA

- Guard Shack Gone!
- New Antennas
- Personnel Changes

If you haven't been to MEMA Headquarters in Framingham in awhile, the first thing you'll notice when you turn into the parking lot is that the old guard shack at the entrance is gone! It's been replaced by a flower garden – a great way to dress-up what the public sees of MEMA as they drive by on Route 9. Many thanks to the Massachusetts National Guard for their efforts in demolishing the shack.

Six old antennas have been replaced with six new ones on MEMA's transmission towers in Framingham. The antennas were installed by crews from Aerial Tower Service of Plymouth, and will enhance MEMA's communications capabilities on many different frequencies, including low-band, hi-

band, UHF, 800 Mhz and amateur radio. Some of the antennas were more than 30 years old.

There have also been some personnel changes at MEMA, with long-time staffers Doug Forbes, Sr. and John Smith retiring, and veteran Steve Staffier taking a job in the private sector. Newly-hired are David Martineau of Gill, program coordinator, and Doug Cope of Hingham, Public Information Officer. Best wishes to those who have left state service, and welcome to those who have joined us!

RESPONSE '98

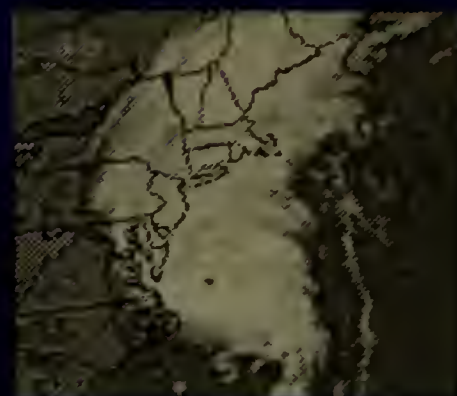
(Continued from page 1)

phone on loan to MEMA, enabling telephone communications to be maintained even when conventional phone lines are down, and special radio-transmitted aerial photography by the Civil Air Patrol, which can provide near-instantaneous pictures of potential trouble spots (such as a traffic jam during an evacuation) around the state.

A full evaluation of Response '98 will be released later this year.

Updated Weather Website!

The National Weather Service's Interactive Weather Information Network (IWIN) website on the Internet has been updated. Check it out for live weather images, and detailed up-to-the-minute weather information from around the globe. The website address is <http://iwin.nws.noaa.gov>.



QUICK ACTION FOR FIRE VICTIMS

Thanks to quick action by the MEMA Disaster Recovery Division, victims of major fires in Provincetown and Williamstown were able to qualify for disaster relief from the Small Business Administration (SBA) in record time.

On February 10, a five-alarm fire tore through Whaler's Wharf on the Provincetown waterfront, causing more than \$7 million damage and displacing about 40 businesses and employees. Most of them had no or very little insurance. On March 29, a general alarm blaze broke out in a business block in the heart of downtown Williamstown, causing about \$1 million damage to a half-dozen businesses and several apartments.

MEMA staffers went to the far corners of the state the day after each fire, set-up field offices in both town halls,

worked with local officials, and gathered information from fire victims during personal interviews. That data was sent to the Governor, who declared local disasters in each town, and then forwarded the information to the Small Business Administration, which made low-interest loans available to fire victims in each community.

With the information compiled by MEMA, the SBA approved loan status for Provincetown within two weeks of the fire, and for Williamstown within only one week. In P-town, the first loan checks were presented to victims by the SBA only a month after the blaze, enabling businesses to get a headstart in getting back on their feet.



MEMA Disaster Recovery manager, Cris McCombs (left), surveys damage caused by the Provincetown Fire of February 1998.

COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

Outreach to the public is an important part of MEMA's mission, and the agency is actively worked to bring our emergency management message to the citizens of the Commonwealth.

MEMA recently staffed an information booth during "Child Safety Day" in Belmont, a Health Fair in Weymouth, and the National Weather Service Open House in Taunton. MEMA staffers will also hand out brochures and other literature during the Barnstable County Fair in July, and the Marshfield Fair in August.

Tours of MEMA Headquarters in Framingham are conducted on a regular basis, with groups from the Plymouth Middle School, Wilson Middle School in Attick, Nobscot Power Squadron, and Sababot Valley Regional Vocational High School in Marlboro among those recently visiting the Emergency Operations Center. In an effort to keep school officials more informed about the weather, MEMA has redistributed more than 250 special weather alert radios to school systems in the state. These radios receive continuous weather information from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) weather radio stations, along with special alert signals which are broadcast when warnings are issued for storms or other element weather. They will enable school officials to receive up-to-date weather information, and will also alert officials to National Weather Service warnings, watches and advisories.

EMERGENCY INFORMATION FOR THE BLIND

MEMA has recorded audio cassette tapes which will be available to blind and visually impaired persons living near the Seabrook, New Hampshire, Nuclear Power Station, and the Pilgrim Nuclear Power Station in Plymouth. The tapes contain important information in the event of an emergency at either nuclear plant. In the area of Seabrook Station, the information applies to those who live in Amesbury, Merrimac, Newbury,

Hurricane Preparedness Brochure Available

Copies of "Surviving the Storm – A Guide to Hurricane Preparedness" are now available.

This brochure contains hurricane preparedness tips, weather terminology, a boater's guide to hurricane readiness, what to put in your hurricane first aid kit, information about the National Flood Insurance Program, and emergency planning recommendations for business owners.

For a free copy, call any one of MEMA's three Area Offices, or call MEMA Headquarters at (508) 820-2000.

Hurricane Preparedness

(Continued from page 1)

Western Massachusetts Electric Company will co-sponsor the Western Massachusetts Hurricane Conference at the Ramada Inn in West Springfield, MA, followed by a public awareness workshop at the Ingleside Mall in Holyoke, MA that evening. This conference will mark the 60th anniversary of the Great New England Hurricane of 1938, the most damaging hurricane to hit New England with more than 600 people killed.

Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury. In the area of Pilgrim Station, the information applies to those who live in Carver (east of Route 58), Duxbury, Kingston, Marshfield (south of Route 139), and Plymouth. Copies of the tapes have been distributed to public libraries in each of the towns, as well as The Talking Information Center in Marshfield, The Massachusetts Commission for the Blind, and the Seabrook and Pilgrim Stations.

The tapes were recorded at The Talking Information Center, a non-profit, non-commercial reading service for

CEM PLAN UPDATE

The MEMA Planning Department is working to convert the Comprehensive Emergency Management (CEM) plan from WordPerfect to Microsoft Word '97. Included in the Microsoft Word version will be completely revised information for Hazardous Materials, and a Terrorism Incident Response Plan.

The HazMat plan will continue to be recognized as a stand-alone component of the CEM, referred to as Part V. The new Terrorism Plan will be added also as a stand-alone Part VI. These two CEM parts were created to house these important stand-alone components. Each component is intended to assist communities in SARA Title III, and terrorism planning, respectively.

CEM plans in the Microsoft Word format will begin to be published in June. The Microsoft Word text and graphics offer an improvement in text quality, document appearance, and printer options. Additionally, maps have been revised to combine or overlay some information and utilize standardized map symbols. Improvements to the CEM plan will continue throughout next year.

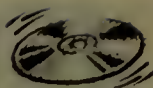
Mike Philbin is the Director of the Planning Department

persons who are blind or have print disabilities. The information on the tapes is also contained in Emergency Planning Calendars that have been distributed to all residents of the communities near the nuclear power stations.

"These audio tapes will allow the blind to have access to the same vital emergency information as contained in the calendars," said Diane Brown-Couture, Director of MEMA's Nuclear Safety Division. "It's important to have this information available to every segment of the community."



CD-ROM FOR DISASTER EDUCATORS



With the click of a mouse, emergency managers, fire safety educators and community volunteers can now have instant access to brochures, factsheets, activity guides and other resources for raising awareness and educating the public about disasters. The FEMA Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation Library is now available on CD-ROM, and offers information on the following subjects:

- Ready-to-print materials on floods, earthquakes, hurricanes, winter storms, wildfires and other disasters – many are co-logoed by the American Red Cross and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration
- Information on disaster preparedness, mitigation, response and recovery, including new brochures on how to reduce financial hardships caused by disasters
- Emergency planning guidance for businesses and manufacturers
- FEMA's "Good Ideas Book" with

activities, case studies and resources for educating children, homeowners and others

"This gives disaster educators another option for high quality printed materials," said Kay Goss, FEMA Associate Director for Preparedness, Training and Exercises. "They can get the job done right in their own communities."

In addition to PDF files, which look like images printed from the Internet, the FEMA Disaster Preparedness and Mitigation Library on CD-ROM includes high resolution printer files and instructions for producing high-quality color brochures at a professional print shop. PC and Mac computer discs are included in the package.

To order the FEMA Disaster Preparedness & Mitigation Library on CD-ROM, call (202) 736-1648, or e-mail valca_valentine@oar-wash.com. For program information, e-mail CFP Program Manager Ralph Swisher at ralph.swisher@fema.gov. Single copies of materials can be obtained at FEMA's web site at www.fema.gov.

June 24: Massachusetts Emergency Management Team (MEMT) meeting on summer Weather – MEMA Headquarters, Framingham

July 9 : Hurricane Public Awareness Workshop – White's Restaurant, Westport

July 15: MEMT meeting – MEMA Headquarters, Framingham

July 16: Hurricane Utility Conference – Bell Atlantic Training Center, Marlboro

July 22: Hurricane Public Awareness Workshop – Boume High School, Boume

Aug. 27: Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop – Best Western, Royal Plaza, Marlboro

Sept. 17: Western Massachusetts Hurricane Conference – Ramada Inn, West Springfield

Sept. 26: State Public Safety Fair – MEMA and State Police Headquarters, Framingham

Contact the MEMA Public Information Office at (508) 820-2000 for more information about any of these events

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MEMA



NEWS

4th Quarter, 1998

Editor - Doug Cope
Assistant Editor - Amanda Orsted

MEMA NEWS is published quarterly by the Massachusetts Emergency Management Agency, Public Information Office - Framingham, MA.
To submit stories to this newsletter please send them to MEMA Headquarters attention: Public Information Officer.

Floods Drench Massachusetts

Heavy rains that began June 13 flooded thousands of homes in Eastern Massachusetts. MEMA's Emergency Operations Center (EOC) in Framingham was fully staffed and operational for several days to coordinate the state's emergency response. MEMA Field Offices in Tewksbury, Bridgewater and Belchertown coordinated requests for assistance from local communities, and helped with disaster recovery efforts.

As a result of the flooding, Governor Paul Cellucci requested federal disaster aid, and the counties of Bristol, Essex, Middlesex, Norfolk, Plymouth, Suffolk and Worcester quickly received a presidential disaster declaration. The declaration enabled residents to apply for grants and low-interest loans to help those affected by the rising waters recover from the damage. To get a first-hand look at the damage, the Governor toured flooded areas of the state with Public Safety Secretary A. David Rodham and MEMA Director Peter G. LaPorte.

(Continued on page 2)

MEMA Hosts 8th Annual Public Safety Fair

Thousands of people enjoyed a beautiful early fall day, as MEMA hosted it's 8th Annual Public Safety Fair on Saturday, September 26 at MEMA State Headquarters in Framingham.

"SafetyFest '98" featured entertainment and information for the whole family, with numerous safety-related demonstrations throughout the day, including search and rescue demonstrations, helicopter displays, and K-9 dog teams.

"SafetyFest '98" was a great opportunity to showcase and recognize those people who are the first line of defense against natural and technological disasters in Massachusetts,"

(Continued on page 2)



Visitors to "Safetyfest '98" get a first-hand look at a U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter

Hurricane Workshops Draw Big Crowds

Hundreds of people recently attended special Hurricane Awareness Workshops sponsored by MEMA, local electric utilities and the National Weather Service. Workshops were held in Westport and Bourne during the month of July, and both included presentations by MEMA officials, NWS meteorologists, and utility representatives. Thousands of hurricane/severe weather brochures and other emergency information were distributed to the public free of charge. The

workshops were also broadcast to the public over local cable tv access channels.

"These workshops are an essential and very successful part of our agency's public outreach efforts," said Thomas P. Rodger, Director of MEMA's Area 2 Field Office in Bridgewater, and coordinator of the workshops. "It's important for us to continue to inform the public about the effects of severe weather, and

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MEMA Helps Develop Graduate Program

Members of MEMA's Training Division have assisted a local college in developing a special emergency management graduate program curriculum. Anna Maria College in Paxton, MA is now the first college in the country to offer a master of science degree in emergency planning and response.

"The program will give students a broad concept of emergency management, as well expose them to more specific training such as Incident Command System (ICS), including organization and staffing techniques, implementation of ICS at emergency and planned events, and development of an Incident Action Plan," said Don Carlton, MEMA Exercise Training Officer, and a course instructor.

College officials expect members of police and fire departments, emergency medical personnel, and employees of private companies that produce or utilize chemicals or other hazardous materials to pursue the graduate degree. In order to receive the master of science degree, students must complete 13 of the 26 courses offered.

PUBLIC SAFETY FAIR

(Continued from page 1)

said MEMA Director Peter G. LaPorte.

Over 100 police, fire, and emergency response vehicles and other equipment were displayed, with more than 70 different organizations participating. Many parents also took advantage of child safety fingerprinting conducted by the Framingham Police Department and the MBTA Police, while hundreds of other citizens toured the MEMA State Emergency Operations Center.

Several local emergency managers received MEMA's Emergency Manager of the Year Award during noon-time ceremonies. The honorees were Thomas Grizey, Pittsfield Emergency Management Director; Roger F. Turner, Walpole Emergency Management Director; and Raymond Brown Lawrence, recently retired Concord Emergency Management Director. Reporter Ed Donahue of WBZ Radio also accepted the MEMA Media Award on behalf of the radio station for "Recognition of Excellence in Improving Public Safety Awareness."

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JUNE FLOODING

(Continued from page 1)

A joint MEMA-FEMA Disaster Field Office (DFO) was established in Walpole to coordinate disaster recovery assistance, and as a result, more than seven-thousand people in the seven counties applied for assistance, and more than \$8 million was distributed to flood victims. Loans and other aid were also made available to farmers who suffered crop losses due to the heavy rains.

"This state-federal partnership was essential in delivering disaster assistance to those in need as quickly as possible," said MEMA Disaster Recovery Manager Cris McCombs.

MEMA is continuing to coordinate assistance to those who suffered flood damage along with other state, federal and local agencies.



A house in Tewksbury becomes an island surrounded by the rising Shawsheen River



Those attending the MEMA Hurricane Workshop in Westport, MA listen to a presentation by officials from the National Weather Service.

HURRICANE CONFERENCE

(Continued from page 1)

what we all can do to help protect our families and property."

Area 2 personnel also distributed hurricane and other public safety literature at MEMA information booths at the Barnstable County Fair and the Marshfield Fair, organized Hurricane Information Workshops in Cotuit and Dartmouth, and participated in a public safety fair sponsored by the City of Brockton.

MEMA's educational program also included a Hurricane Awareness Workshop for Utility Officials in conjunction with Bell Atlantic. The workshop was held at Bell Atlantic's Learning Center in Marlborough, and featured a presentation by WHDH-TV Meteorologist Harvey Leonard.

Area 3 also conducted very successful Hurricane Awareness Workshops in Worcester, West Springfield and Holyoke. In fact, more than 300 public officials from Western and Central Massachusetts attended a MEMA Hurricane Awareness Conference at the Sovereign Hotel and Conference Center

in West Springfield in September. The conference focused on what public officials can do to help prepare their communities for hurricanes and other severe weather, and what help MEMA, other state agencies, and electric utilities can provide. The gathering also marked the 60th anniversary of the Great New England Hurricane of 1938, the strongest and deadliest storm to strike our region this century.

A special highlight of the West Springfield Conference was the presentation of a Governor's Citation and a MEMA Certificate of Appreciation to John Quill, long-time meteorologist for Springfield television station WWLP-TV22. Quill was honored by MEMA for his "many years of professional and dedicated weather forecasting for the people of Western Massachusetts". Quill joined Channel 22 when the station first went on the air in 1953, and has been delivering daily weather forecasts for the last 45 years- longer than any other tv weatherman in the U.S.

Western Massachusetts Schools Receive Weatheradios

MEMA is distributing 100 weather alert radios to school systems in Western Massachusetts, thanks to a donation from KB Toys of Pittsfield, MA. The donation of \$2,000 was awarded to the Northeast States Emergency Consortium (NESEC), a non-profit corporation that works with government and private organizations to reduce and prevent losses of life and property resulting from natural disasters.

"With winter weather here again, it's essential that school officials have access to up-to-the-minute forecasts," said John T. Pappas, Director of MEMA's Area 3 Field Office in Belchertown. "These radios will allow immediate safeguards to be implemented in the event of inclement or even dangerous weather."

"KB Toys is proud to support the efforts of MEMA and NESEC," said Michael L. Glazer, CEO of KB Toys. "The radios are an instrument to protect the lives of children in Western Massachusetts from natural disasters, and the effort reflects our strong commitment to children and families."

NEW ENGLAND MITIGATION PLANNING WORKSHOP A SUCCESS

BY DONNA NELSON – MEMA-DEM

More than 150 representatives from local governments, non-profit agencies and other community institutions throughout New England recently attended a one-day Community Based Hazard Mitigation Planning Workshop in Marlborough, MA. The workshop was co-sponsored by the Massachusetts' Hazard Mitigation Program, a cooperative program coordinated by MEMA and the Department of Environmental Management's Flood Hazard Management Program.

The workshop included an impressive list of presenters, including MEMA Director Peter G. LaPorte, who served as master of ceremonies. The opening speaker was FEMA/Region I Director Jeffrey Bean who set the proactive tone of the workshop with his remarks on the importance of hazard mitigation in every New England community. Flood management and hazard mitigation expert French Wetmore gave an overview of viable multi-hazard mitigation techniques as well as the methods needed to develop a community-wide hazard mitigation plan. Coastal expert Joseph Klinger from Coastal Resources Management Council in Rhode Island added to French's presentations with a marine perspective on cost-effective mitigation methods.

David Vallee from the National Weather Service/Northeast Region office in Taunton was the luncheon speaker, giving a witty, comparative perspective on mitigation planning, as well as an overview of Hurricane Bonnie and past New England hurricanes and storms.

The workshop also featured a success story panel presentation of local representatives from Maine, Connecticut, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. Each panelist gave an overview of how their communities are currently implementing hazard mitigation planning and program management. The panelists included: Doris Crary, Marshfield, MA, a private citizen who spearheads Marshfield's flood mitigation plan; Tony Leveque, Community Development & Code Enforcement Officer, Fort Fairfield, ME; Michael Cassidy, Director of Planning & Redevelopment, Pawtucket, RI; Dennis McCarthy, Deputy Fire Chief, Westport, CT, and Alicia Mozian, Town Planner, Westport, CT.

All participants also attended breakout sessions examining two possible scenarios –a river flood and a coastal flood. Both of these exercises were included in the Mitigation Planning Workbook that every participant received. This detailed workbook included an overview of the mitigation methods presented by French Wetmore and Joe Klinger, additional hazard mitigation resource materials, as well as more detailed information on the success stories described by the community panel. Additional copies of this workbook will be available. If you are interested in obtaining a copy, please contact Donna Nelson at (617) 727 – 3160, ext. 598.

MEMA 1999 Training Calendar Now Available

Copies of the MEMA 1999 Training Calendar are now available. The calendar lists dates for all courses offered by the MEMA Training Division, including CAMEO/MARPLOT, ALOHA, Incident Command, Emergency Management and Operations, and Terrorism Awareness. (Note: Course offerings, dates and locations are subject to change based on student enrollment, availability of instructors, facilities, etc.) A class application form is included.

To obtain a copy of the calendar, contact the MEMA Training Division at (508) 820-2028.

MEMA PART OF SUCCESSFUL SEABROOK NUCLEAR EXERCISE

By Deborah Yeager, MEMA Area 1

MEMA staffers played a vital role in the 1998 FEMA Evaluated Exercise which tested emergency preparedness and response at the Seabrook, New Hampshire nuclear power station. In fact, this exercise proved to be the most successful since the program began in 1992. Months of hard work by state and local emergency management organizations paid off with an excellent performance.

In all, more than 600 people were involved in the exercise at over 60 locations. Emergency Operations Centers (EOCs) at MEMA Headquarters in Framingham and MEMA Area 1 in Tewksbury were activated, along with EOCs in Amesbury, Merrimac, Newbury, Newburyport, Salisbury and West Newbury. 10 public schools in four districts, six daycare centers, and 23 special facilities also participated, along with a new State Police Assembly Area in Danvers and the Emergency Operations Facility and new Media Center in Newington, New Hampshire.

In addition to the main exercise on June 3rd, there were many out-of-sequence exercises. The Tewksbury Reception Center staffed by Tewksbury Hospital personnel, Tewksbury Fire Department, Tewksbury Police Department, District 6 Hazmat Team, Massachusetts Department of Mental Health, and the American Red Cross exercised on June 10. The Radiological Monitoring and Decontamination Station staffed by the District 3 Hazmat Team had their turn on June 24. The State Transportation Staging Area comprised of approximately 30 volunteers wrapped it up with an exercise on June 27.

Everyone at MEMA Area 1 extends a sincere thank you and applause to all participants for their continued good work and excellent cooperation. We welcome Merrimac back into the fold, with Emergency Management Director Ralph Spenser and his talented EOC team coming up to speed quickly. Congratulations to all other Local Directors in the Emergency Planning Zone – Richard Clark in Amesbury, Roger Merry in Newbury, Ralph Ayers in Newburyport, Terry Marengi in Salisbury and Scott Berkenbush in West Newbury. We're looking forward to another successful exercise in 2000!

Marshfield Joins "Project Impact"

The Town of Marshfield has been selected as the Project Impact community for Massachusetts. Working together with state, federal and local agencies, businesses and organizations, Marshfield is taking steps to make the town a "Disaster Resistant Community".

As part of the project, the town is eligible to receive a \$500,000 grant for approved proposals to mitigate storm damage. Officials, business owners and citizens recently toured Project Impact initiative sites in Marshfield, and signed a "memorandum of agreement" reaffirming their commitment to the program.



FEMA Mitigation Director Michael Armstrong (right) visits a Marshfield, MA animal hospital along with MEMA Director Peter LaPorte (center), and local Project Impact Coordinator Joan Foster. The animal hospital has agreed to shelter pets during an emergency as part of Project Impact.

MEMA Disaster Recovery Team Helps Gloucester and Somerville

The MEMA Disaster Recovery Division continued its excellent track record for 1998 by successfully aiding business owners in Gloucester and Somerville. Thanks to assistance from MEMA, fishermen in Gloucester and artists in Somerville were able to apply for low-interest Small Business Administration (SBA) loans to help recover losses from two devastating fires.

In Gloucester, a four-alarm fire destroyed Fisherman's Wharf, used by many local fishermen to unload their catch and store nets and other fishing gear. In Somerville, an eight-alarm blaze at a neighboring printing company destroyed Sculpture Studio on Winslow Street, which was used as studio space by several artists.

In both cases, staffers from the Disaster Recovery Division and MEMA's Area 1 Field Office in Tewksbury responded quickly by setting up disaster field offices, and interviewing those affected by the fire.

Local officials also worked hand-in-hand with MEMA in the assistance process, with Gloucester State Senator Bruce Tarr making his mobile constituent office available for use as a field office at Fisherman's Wharf, and Somerville Mayor Michael Capuano offering the use of city hall offices, staff and other resources to help the fire victims in his city.

Using information gathered by MEMA and submitted by Governor Cellucci, the SBA granted the Governor's request for disaster declarations for both fires, enabling victims in both cities to apply for low-interest economic injury disaster loans.



State Senator Bruce Tarr (left) speaks with MEMA Area 1 Director Kevin Tully (center) and MEMA Disaster Recovery Manager Cris McCombs at Fisherman's Wharf in Gloucester, as MEMA Disaster Recovery Coordinator Judy Witcher looks on.

MEMA Enjoys New Partnership with Town of Framingham

MEMA Headquarters in Framingham, MA is enjoying a new partnership with local government. MEMA and the Town of Framingham have agreed on the use of excess MEMA parking spaces for those who utilize the town-owned "Muster Field" adjacent to headquarters property.

In exchange for using MEMA parking spaces, the town agreed to erect a new fence around the entire MEMA property. Muster Field is used for various town recreational purposes, including soccer and Framingham High School field hockey. Previously, parking at the field was limited, but now about 50 spaces at the rear of headquarters property are available.

"This is a win-win situation for the town and for MEMA," said MEMA State Director Peter G. LaPorte. "I'm glad the state and local government have been able to work together to solve a local problem. We like being good neighbors and partners with the town we're in."

As part of the agreement, the town also paved a new walkway from MEMA property to the field, and made another access gate through the fence. In the event of an emergency requiring headquarters to become operational, the parking spaces would revert to MEMA use.

Director LaPorte and other MEMA and Framingham officials recently attended ribbon-cutting ceremonies to officially mark the agreement, and dedicate the new walkway, fence, gate and additional access to the field.



MEMA and Framingham officials gather for dedication of a new walkway and entrance to Muster Field. From left: Dr. Mark Smith - Supt. of Schools, Bud Ianazzo - MEMA Deputy Director, Charles Brodie - Framingham School Committee, Valerie Mulvey - Board of Selectmen, Helen Lamoine - Framingham Planning Board, Peter LaPorte - MEMA State Director.

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Severe Weather and Tree Damage Conference at U-Mass

The Department of Forestry and Wildlife at the U-Mass/Amherst will conduct a one-day urban forest/storm damage educational program for emergency managers, state and municipal officials, industry professionals and utility managers.

The "1998 Storms Over the Urban Forest Conference" will review the regional impacts and responses to widespread storm damage to urban forests, focusing on the Ice Storm of

'98 from a municipal, utility, commercial and government perspective, and examine what is being done to prepare for future storms.

The conference will be held on March 1, 1999 at the University of Massachusetts, Campus Center, in Amherst, MA. For more information contact Dennis Ryan at (413) 545-6626.

Internet Homepage Updated

MEMA has updated and revamped it's Internet Homepage on the World-Wide Web. The website has expanded sections about MEMA and it's departments, emergency information, a complete list of emergency managers in each Massachusetts city and town, a schedule of training courses, and a list of MEMA

personnel. You'll also find press releases, a photo gallery, and a calendar of events, along with links to other useful weather and emergency-related homepages.

Check out the MEMA Website at www.magnet.state.ma.us/mema.

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Calendar of Upcoming Events

December 14 - Area 1 Winter Weather Conference - Ramada Inn, Woburn

December 16 - MEMT Winter Weather - Framingham HQ

January 15, 16 - Mass Municipal Assoc Annual Meeting and Trade Show - Boston

January 20 - MEMT Stress Management - Framingham HQ

February 6 - Cold Water/Ice Rescue Conference - Natick

March 1 - Urban Forest/Storm Damage - U-Mass/Amherst

For more information about events, contact the MEMA Public Info. Office at (508) 820-2000

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